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doctors of physics, and veterinary doctors, and others still. Besides in this country, so far, at least, as titles go 'honors are easy.' We know from common knowledge that druggists' clerks are ordinarily addressed as 'doctor,' justices of the peace are usually called 'judge,' and a teacher of the saltatory art always styles himself 'professor,' while 'Yarborough House colonels' and 'honorable' by courtesy of like tenor are almost as 'Thick as autumnal leaves that strew the brooks in Vallombrosa.' Certainly the courts cannot abate a man as a nuisance because some one gives him, or he gives himself, a title."

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**PRECEDENTS.**—The authority of precedent is a necessity in our system of jurisprudence. It is an underlying, fundamental principle of the common law, and it has served to define and in a sense to control the jurisdiction of our equity tribunals. It is what has given to the common law its stability and to equity its form and substance. While this is true, the growth and expansion of the common law and the adaptation of equitable principles to new conditions have involved to some degree the breaking down of the notion that precedent constitutes the life and authority of the law. Courts are necessarily to a great extent the slaves of precedent, and yet they often feel that justice demands a radical departure from what has been regarded as settled doctrine. It is unusual, however, for a judge in a court of last resort to indulge in so emphatic a denunciation of precedent as did Justice Lumpkin, of the supreme court of Georgia, in *Rogers et al v. French*, 19 Ga. 316. The opinion from which the language given below is taken, was written in 1856. What would be the language of Justice Lumpkin if he were writing to-day?

"Is not such reasoning from the mouth of such a judge well calculated to inspire the hope that the day is not distant when all precedents will be abolished, and every case be tried by an enlightened tribunal upon its own merits? To such a consummation the world must, from the necessity of the case, to say nothing of its policy, sooner or later come; for the world will not contain the law books that will be written, much less will lawyers and judges, with their stinted income, be able to buy them. Necessity will become the mother of justice in this case, as she is said to be generally of invention. Would that some Caliph Omar would arise to apply the torch to all the repositories of legal learning throughout the globe! Precedent! Precedent! This is the vampire that is forever draining the very life blood of justice. Give the books of reports as fuel for baths. They will contribute much more to the health, happiness, and convenience of the people than as at present employed."